

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SAB-01 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

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S/S-O: L. MACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 104790

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM BELL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: US-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: IMPLICATIONS OF

1. REFERENCE OUR SEVERAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS TODAY.
2. I JUST SPOKE TO NICO ON THE TELEPHONE ON CONTADORA.
THE GENERAL AND GABRIEL WERE THE EXTENSION PHONES.
3. THEY SAID, IN EFFECT, THAT THEY HAD BEEN AVOIDING
YOU TODAY BECAUSE THEY WERE AFRAID TO HEAR WHAT YOU WOULD
SAY.
4. WE WENT BACK AND FORTH FOR AN HOUR OR SO, BARGAINING.
THE UPSHOT I TAKE TO BE AS FOLLOWS: IF WE WILL SEND A
HIGH LEVEL TEAM EARLY THIS COMING WEEK TO PANAMA TO DISCUSS
THE FUTURE REPEAT FUTURE OF TUNA BOAT VIOLATIONS, THEY
WILL UNDERTAKE THAT THERE BE NO "DIFFICULTIES", ESPECIALLY
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OF AN ARMED VARIETY, DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND IN

PARTICULAR DURING THE U.S. NEGOTIATIONS VISIT TO PANAMA. THEY EMPHASIZE HOWEVER THAT THE BOATS IN QUESTION MUST REPEAT MUST REMAIN IN CANAL ZONE WATERS. IF NOT, THEY CANNOT "GUARANTEE" A "PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT."

I TAKE IT, HOWEVER, THAT THEY ARE WILLING TO GO VERY FAR TOWARD AVOIDING ANY DIFFICULT EPISODES.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMBASSADOR AND I AND THE STAFF CONTINUE WITH OUR PLANS TO PROCEED TO PANAMA MAY

5. I HAVE SO INFORMED NICO, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT OUR COMING IS "WITH SOME PREJUDICE".

6. YOU MAY WISH TO TRY TO PEN DOWN A LITTLE BIT MORE FIRMLY THE "AGREEMENT" WHICH I THINK HAS BEEN REACHED. OUR TEAM, I AM TOLD, CAN IN FACT PROCEED TO PANAMA WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. BUT WHAT WE WANT TO MAKE SURE OF IS THAT WILL IN FACT BE NO "SHOOTING".

7. I THINK IT WILL DEPEND ON YOUR SENSATION--AFTER EXPLORING THIS "AGREEMENT" FURTHER WITH THE PANAMANIAN--WHETHER YOU WILL WISH TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR PLANS FOR HOME LEAVE. CERTAINLY WE ALL HERE HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR PLANS BUT WE LEAVE THAT ENTIRELY IN YOUR JUDGMENT. SISCO

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